

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on rare occasions during our lifetimes, we have the opportunity to encounter an extraordinary individual. One such individual is John Nathan Sturdivant, president of the American Federation of Government Employees. His recent death was a heavy blow for Federal workers, their families, and for all of us who admired the qualities that he brought to his work.

John Sturdivant served our country as a member of the Armed Forces and as a civilian employee. As a leader of the AFGE, he continued to serve by representing the Federal employees who translate policy in the actual operations of the Federal Government. To this task, John Sturdivant brought the qualities of vision and leadership. He supported Federal employees working with managers to make Government more efficient, productive, and cost effective. At the same time, he remained a labor leader, dedicated to the principle of collective bargaining and the dignity of working people.

May I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a personal note. John Sturdivant displayed throughout his final months extraordinary bravery and commitment. He worked without ceasing as long as he was physically capable. His attitude and demeanor never reflected his pain and distress. He was devoted to the AFGE, its principles and its people to the end of his life. His dedication to service on behalf of the American public was unflinching. All of us who address the public interests can only hope to live up to the standards set by John Sturdivant.

John Sturdivant had the capacity to inspire loyalty and the ability to enlarge the vision of those with whom he worked. These are the qualities of a true leader.

To his daughter Michelle, to his family and to the membership of the American Federation of Government Employees, we extend our deepest sympathy. John Sturdivant was one of those who made the world a better place than he found it. He will be deeply missed by all of us.

THE UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN BASIN TRADE PARTNERSHIP ACT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, because it will strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship that exists between the United States and the smaller countries of the Caribbean Basin.

Due in large part to the Caribbean Basin initiative, which was proposed by President Reagan in 1982 and passed by the Congress in 1983, trade between the United States and Caribbean Basin nations have more than doubled in the past dozen years and now equal close to \$30 billion a year. During that time, U.S. trade with the CBI region has generated roughly 18,000 new export-ori-

ented jobs each year. What was once a trade deficit of \$2.7 billion with the Caribbean is now a United States trade surplus of over \$1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 2644 will strengthen the United States-Caribbean Basin trade partnership while at the same time enhancing the competitiveness of United States firms and workers. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

VOTE "NO" ON NAFTA EXPANSION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake. The vote today on the Caribbean Trade Partnership Act is a litmus test from the White House. They want to pass NAFTA expansion, and the President is twisting arms. In fact, the President is reminding everybody that we must build a bridge to the 21st century.

Now, if that is not enough to repave your off ramp, here is how that bridge really works. The bridge brings in Mexican tomatoes, Canadian beef, illegal immigrants, narcotics, and everything under the sun made in China and Japan. The bridge takes away American jobs. The bridge takes away American factories. The bridge destroys American families.

Beam me up. That is not a bridge the White House is selling; that is a toll road leading to a dead end for American workers. Vote "no" today on that partnership act, vote "no" on NAFTA expansion.

I yield back the liberal wage jobs we keep sending overseas.

FAST TRACK IS CRITICAL TO THIS COUNTRY

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the House is scheduled to vote this week on a matter essential to the economic vitality of this country, a vote to extend fast track trade negotiating authority to the President. Fast track is a crucial partnership between the President and Congress. My colleagues will remember that Presidents Nixon, Carter, Reagan, and Bush all used this authority to negotiate open markets with foreign governments in good faith.

The United States has benefited from these negotiations. Since fast track expired in 1994, foreign governments have refused to enter into trade negotiations with the United States. These countries continue to open trade and investments for their own companies and their own workers, while retaining barriers against U.S. exports.

Without fast track, we risk being left behind. It does not force Congress to give up its power to oversee the nego-

tiations. Congress simply agrees to vote on a completed trade agreement without any changes. Fast track is critical to this country, to the U.S. leadership in the global economy. Support the extension of fast track.

THE TIME IS NOW FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Senate has now agreed to a date for a full and fair and open debate on campaign finance reform next March. The American public wants this done, and I believe the majority of Members of the House want this done.

The time has come now for the Republican leadership to agree to set a date for that debate. That debate must be open, it must be fair, it must allow for the consideration of the competing bills for reforming our campaign finance reform system. There is a rule that is at this desk, or a discharge petition to create a rule that would allow that debate on those competing items for reform.

The time has come for the Republican leadership to get out of the way, let the Congress have that debate, let the public watch that debate, because they are hungry for campaign finance reform.

We have spent a year listening to and discovering scandals on both sides of the aisle on the misuse of campaign money, on the overwhelming onslaught of soft money in our system. The time has come to reform it. Mr. Speaker, do it now. Give us a date before we leave town.

PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON TAX RELIEF IS PUZZLING

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if some of my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle can help me with a question that is puzzling me. Why is it that it is selfish when we wish to keep what belongs to us, whereas it is compassion when we wish to take what belongs to another? I suppose by your own logic, it is selfish to lock your doors at night when you want to keep what you have earned.

I guess all of the hard work and sacrifice that goes into earning what belongs to you, that is forgotten, because the liberals are busy today talking about how compassionate they are spending other people's money.

Now we have the President of the United States on record showing what side he is on. Yesterday he called those of us that want tax cuts selfish. The President thinks that ordinary Americans ought to be condemned for thinking that the Government could get by on a little less, that families ought to have a little bit more.